

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating sexual dysfunction in a male patient comprising topically administering to the genitals of said patient an effective amount of L-arginine or a derivative of L-arginine and an effective amount of an antioxidant.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is selected from the group consisting of hydroxylated L-arginine, di-, tri- or tetra-peptides having L-arginine or hydroxylated L-arginine at the amino terminal end, esters of L-arginine, esters of hydroxylated L-arginine, amides of L-arginine, amides of hydroxylated L-arginine, L-homoarginine, hydroxylated L-homoarginine, esters of L-homoarginine, esters of hydroxylated L-arginine, amides of L-homoarginine and amides of hydroxylated L-arginine.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is the methyl ester of L-arginine.
4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is the ethyl ester of L-arginine.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is a mixture of methyl ester of L-arginine and ethyl ester of L-arginine.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is ascorbic acid or derivatives thereof.
7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said antioxidant is a combination of ascorbic acid and ascorbic acid palmitate.
8. The method of Claim 6, wherein the derivative of L-arginine is a methyl ester of L-arginine, an ethyl ester of L-arginine, or mixtures thereof.
9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said L-arginine or derivative of L-arginine and said antioxidant are administered concurrently in the same composition.
10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said composition is in the form of a gel, ointment, foam, spray, cream, salve, lotion, liquid, or emulsion or liposomal suspension.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said effective amounts are those amounts necessary to cause the desired level of blood flow to erectile tissue while minimizing peroxynitrite levels.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said L-arginine or derivative of L-arginine and said antioxidant are applied to the glans, shaft or both of the penis.

13. A method for treating sexual dysfunction in a female patient comprising topically administering to the genitals of said patient an effective amount of L-arginine or a derivative of L-arginine and an effective amount of an antioxidant.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is selected from the group consisting of hydroxylated L-arginine, di-, tri- or tetra-peptides having L-arginine or hydroxylated L-arginine at the amino terminal end, esters of L-arginine, esters of hydroxylated L-arginine, amides of L-arginine, amides of hydroxylated L-arginine, L-homoarginine, hydroxylated L-homoarginine, esters of L-homoarginine, esters of hydroxylated L-arginine, amides of L-homoarginine and amides of hydroxylated L-arginine.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is the methyl ester of L-arginine.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is the ethyl ester of L-arginine.

17. The method of Claim 13, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is a mixture of methyl ester of L-arginine and ethyl ester of L-arginine.

18. The method of Claim 13, wherein the antioxidant is ascorbic acid or derivatives thereof.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said antioxidant is a combination of ascorbic acid and ascorbic acid palmitate.

20. The method of Claim 18, wherein the derivative of L-arginine is a mixture of methyl ester of L-arginine and ethyl ester of L-arginine.

21. The method of Claim 13, wherein said L-arginine or derivatives of L-arginine and said antioxidant are administered concurrently in the same composition.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein said composition is in the form of a gel, ointment, foam, spray, cream, salve, lotion, liquid, emulsion or liposomal suspension.

23. The method of Claim 13, wherein said effective amounts are those amounts necessary to cause the desired level of blood flow to erectile tissue while minimizing peroxynitrite levels.

24. The method of Claim 13, wherein said L-arginine or derivative of L-arginine and said antioxidant are applied to the clitoral hood.

25. The method of Claim 13, wherein said treatment results in enhancement of sexual pleasure.

26. A composition comprising L-arginine or a derivative of L-arginine and an antioxidant in a pharmaceutical carrier suitable for application to the genitals.

27. The composition of Claim 26, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is selected from the group consisting of hydroxylated L-arginine, di-, tri- or tetra-peptides having L-arginine or hydroxylated L-arginine at the amino terminal end, esters of L-arginine, esters of hydroxylated L-arginine, amides of L-arginine, amides of hydroxylated L-arginine, L-homoarginine, hydroxylated L-homoarginine, esters of L-homoarginine, esters of hydroxylated L-arginine, amides of L-homoarginine and amides of hydroxylated L-arginine.

28. The composition of Claim 27, wherein said derivative of L-arginine is selected from the group consisting of the methyl ester of L-arginine, the ethyl ester of L-arginine, and mixtures thereof.

29. The composition of Claim 28, wherein the antioxidant is ascorbic acid or derivatives thereof.

30. The composition of Claim 29, wherein said antioxidant is a combination of ascorbic acid and ascorbic acid palmitate.

31. The composition of Claim 26, wherein said pharmaceutical carrier is a liposomal suspension.

32. The composition of Claim 26, further comprising one or more excipients selected from the group consisting of surfactants, suspending agents, emulsifiers, osmotic enhancers, extenders and dilutants, pH modifiers, fragrances, colors, flavors, humectants, emollients and absorption enhancers.